
By: **Harford County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2003

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Harford County - Circuit Court - Attorney Appearance Fee**

3 FOR the purpose of altering a certain attorney appearance fee payable to the Clerk of
4 Circuit Court for Harford County; and generally relating to attorneys appearing
5 in the Circuit Court for Harford County.

6 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
7 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
8 Section 7-204(a)
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2002 Replacement Volume)

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings
13 Section 7-204(n)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2002 Replacement Volume)

16 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
17 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

18 **Article - Courts and Judicial Proceedings**

19 7-204.

20 (a) (1) Except in Montgomery County and except as provided in paragraph
21 (2) of this subsection for Baltimore County, in paragraph (3) of this subsection for St.
22 Mary's County, [and] in paragraph (4) of this subsection for Baltimore City, AND IN
23 PARAGRAPH (5) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR HARFORD COUNTY, the clerk of each circuit
24 court shall:

25 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
26 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

1 (ii) Charge as costs a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
2 counsel when prosecuting or defending a criminal action in the court; and

3 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of
4 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

5 (2) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore County shall:

6 (i) Collect, in advance, the following fee for docketing the
7 appearance of counsel when bringing or defending a civil action:

8 1. A \$20 fee for an action, including the collection of money
9 due on mortgage, in a court of equity; and

10 2. A \$10 fee for an action at law in a court of original
11 jurisdiction;

12 (ii) Charge as costs the following fee for docketing the appearance
13 of counsel when bringing or defending a criminal action:

14 1. If the punishment for the offense charged is death or
15 confinement in the State penitentiary, a \$20 fee; and

16 2. For any other criminal action, a \$10 fee; and

17 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
18 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

19 (3) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for St. Mary's County shall collect, in
20 advance, a \$10 fee for docketing the appearance of counsel when bringing or
21 defending a civil action in the court.

22 (4) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City shall:

23 (i) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
24 counsel when bringing or defending a civil action in the court;

25 (ii) Charge as costs the following fee for docketing the appearance
26 of counsel when bringing or defending a criminal action:

27 1. If the punishment for the offense charged is death or
28 confinement in the State penitentiary, a \$20 fee; and

29 2. For any other criminal action, a \$10 fee; and

30 (iii) Collect, in advance, a \$20 fee for docketing the appearance of
31 counsel when bringing or defending a case in the Court of Appeals.

32 (5) THE CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR HARFORD COUNTY SHALL:

1 (I) COLLECT, IN ADVANCE, A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE
2 APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN BRINGING OR DEFENDING A CIVIL ACTION IN THE
3 COURT;

4 (II) CHARGE AS COSTS A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE
5 APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN PROSECUTING OR DEFENDING A CRIMINAL
6 ACTION IN THE COURT; AND

7 (III) COLLECT, IN ADVANCE, A \$20 FEE FOR DOCKETING THE
8 APPEARANCE OF COUNSEL WHEN BRINGING OR DEFENDING A CASE IN THE COURT
9 OF APPEALS.

10 (n) The Clerk of the Circuit Court for Harford County shall retain all
11 appearance fees collected by the Clerk under this section for the general use of the
12 court library of the county, including the necessary expenses for books and library
13 equipment and the cost for the services of a librarian.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2003.